

NORTHERN NEWS

UFO

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COVER: STEPHEN GRAHAM

CONTENT: p.2...UFOs explained?...p.6..Mersey Mixture (Margaret Fry)...Tornado sighting a hoax... pp 7-9 ...Brief cases from Cheshire, Humberside, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Merseyside, Northants, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands ...pp 10-11...Case History...A psychic nightmare - Cumbrian UAP ... Plus all the usual features.

37 HEATHBANK ROAD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESHIRE ENGLAND SK3 0UP

J. R. Comments ...

Just a quick comment this issue on the growing trend to claim UFOlogy has been solved. I was told Hilary Evans said as much on the ITV programme 'Stories in the Night' (where he came out in favour of natural phenomena and praised the breakthrough of Dr Terence Meaden). This will undoubtedly not be well received in certain quarters, but he has a very good point.

Paul Fuller and I, when we release sensational new crop circle research for June's international meteorological conference (see page 12) will say very unexpected things based on extensive hard evidence. My lecture at the Sheffield symposium (also see p. 12) is entitled 'The death of UFOlogy' and is not intended merely to be provocative. It expresses genuine sentiments.

However, we should not be misled by these arguments into thinking that either UFO research is all over (or NUN will have to go out of print!) or that Dr Meaden has all of the answers sewn up and nobody else can contribute. That would be very unfair to several sources (eg - to name but one - Paul Devereux and his companions). It may well also be untrue.

Nonetheless, it has become increasingly obvious to me over the past couple of years (and especially the past 12 months) that many apparently classic cases do bear re-evaluation in the light of natural, physical phenomena such as super ball-lightning, earthlights and the Meaden Vortex. A case in point is that at Trans-en-Provence, southern France, which if looked at with new eyes may be a Meaden Vortex - not the pre-conceived spaceship.

This seems to extend beyond UFOlogy too. Roy Sandbach sent me a photocopy from 'Railway Ghosts', published in 1985, which has a ghost tale from Utterby Halt, Lincolnshire (on the Louth-Grimsby line). The sighting was in 1978 (a Sunday) and here is what happened when two people drove over the track in a car. "...the car stopped. Mr Hewitt sighed and tried without success to restart the engine. An eerie silence descended... Before the Hewitts could leave their car a gust of wind hit it, shaking it violently and there was a roaring sound as if a train had gone straight through the vehicle... Eventually an eerie silence returned and Mr Hewitt attempted to restart his car. To his amazement it started instantly..."

Here we see how by broadening our minds to encompass UFOs as novel atmospheric phenomena we may solve many other mysteries, not just UFOlogical ones. Problematic areas still remain (eg in close encounters) but all I contend is that a new era may have dawned and UFOlogy can at last find its true place as a part of science - not some disbelieved supernatural myth.

NEWS ROUND-UP:

:: WAPIT have decided to branch out into other areas of the paranormal (as well as UFOs). Address is the same (see p.12) but now they wish to be known as 'Lancashire Ghostbusters'.

:: Meanwhile NUFORC report a successful Northampton meeting in January and extensive progress on a project other groups might consider. They have done a major historical archives search of their local newspaper 'morgue' for UFO cases. We'll publish some of the results in future issues. Chairman Ernie Still has been unwell with a back problem and we wish him good health

:: Help is needed by BUFORA investigator Ken Phillips. He believes many group cases leave loose ends "in terms of profiling the sort of witness involved". Ken is a leading specialist in witness-based study (with psychologist Dr Alex Keul). Now with facilities to interview distant witnesses and employ the unique 'Anamnesis Profile' test he thinks YOU may have cases where such a witness study could be invaluable (eg complex close encounters or witnesses with a track record of ESP, psychic experiences or many UFO sightings). This work will be done in strictest confidence. If you can help (or think Ken can help you) write to:- 16 Wedgewood Walk London NW6 1XR... Tel: 01-435-0349 (night) (or 01-353-0811, EXT 37) (14.30-19.30 hrs)

:: American psychiatrist and abduction researcher, Dr Rima Laibow, asks me to mention a new award by her scientific institute (TREAT) to commemorate the late clinical researcher Dr Dan Overlade. Each year \$500 (£300) will be awarded to the author of "the (research or clinical) paper which does the most to advance our understanding of EAT (experienced anomalous trauma)". Papers must conform to scientific format, be previously unpublished and available to TREAT for publication. Submissions should contact Rima at:- 13 Summit Terrace Dobbs' Ferry NY 10522 USA. Gourmets need not apply!

:: New publications on offer are:-

UFO Lexicon (from BUFORA 16 South Way Burgess Hill Sussex RH15 9ST) which is an 11 language dictionary of cross-referenced UFO terms; perfect for the avid translator of UFO tomes. £5.60 (UK).. £7 (Europe) ..\$12 (US/Canada)

Portraits of alien encounters is a self published venture from UFO stalwart Nigel Watson (one of only 3 people who has subscribed to NUN since issue 1) Only have a description, but knowing his writings, it will be a good read and will discuss north England close encounters based on first hand interviews with some fascinating witnesses. Price is £10. Available from Nigel at:-

52A Lascotts Rd Wood Green London N22 4JN

OUGRAP Proceedings is finally an 8pp A5 pamphlet reviewing all the events and papers at the Open University UFO symposium in Port Talbot last October. No price quoted; from:- 126 Grange Rd Guildford Surrey GU2 6QP

:: Bookseller Susanne Stebbing (41 Terminus Dr Herne Bay Kent CT6 6PR) asks me to mention her latest mail order listing of UFO & related titles which includes some hard to get US stuff; eg the 'cover-up' Bible "Clear Intent" (from Fawcett & Greenwood) (£10.65) and lots of esoteric contactee stuff from the US fringe circuit. Worth checking out for rarer titles.

:: Finally, a letter (no address) asking "was there ever a UFO sighting in Australia?" She doubts it, but a friend says there was. Tough one this...

FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles elsewhere



Couple of new titles to note. Kick off with The UFO Debate (£9, for six, from 40 Stubbing Way Shipley W.Yorks BD18 2EZ) Edited by David Barclay it has the latest rage (awful jet black ink on recycled paper). Content of issues 1 & 2 are wide-ranging (from saucers on the moon to sightings as mirages) and there is a lot of it. With one article titled 'Do UFOnuts do it?' how can you resist a trial issue at £1.50. One to watch.

Also out is Challenge (£1; 24 Clare Ave Darlington DL3 8SL) with assorted stuff on ancient astronauts, magic, earth mysteries et al. Too early to tell whether this will contribute as much as the above. But interesting.

UFO Times (6 issues, with BUFORA sub £16.50 ; 103 Hove Ave London E17 7NG)
Mar - First news on the Belgian wave which made the national press a month later! Pt 2 of John Spencer's radical view of Close Encounters. Full report on the Cannock Chase landing with physical traces (inc site photos).

SPI Engimas (£6, for 5, 5 Tullbody Rd Alloa Clackmannanshire FK10 2LL)
Mar - Scotlands own (with more new addresses than a flying picket) always full of interesting stuff about ghosts, psychics et al. UFO content is an interview with CE IV rock group (they of the wonderful 'Abduction' album)

Earth (£5, for 6, 20 Stonegate Rd Thorpe Edge Bradford W.Yorks BD10 0HF)
Feb - More thick black ink on toilet paper but neat and 36 densely packed fascinating pages. Even more esoteric than normal (with stuff on shamanism, meditation, hallucinogenes and similar 'new age' or 'sixties hippy' pieces.

IUR Jan/Feb 1990 (\$35, for 6, 2547 W Peterson Av, Chicago, IL 60659 USA)
Mostly taken up with a long critical (and at times cogent) review of the problems of psycho-social UFOlogy, notably the changing views of Dr Jacques Vallee. Once Hynek's closest friend, now a European style UFOlogist living in 'exile' and often misunderstood because he can't embrace America's new ETH.

MUFON Journal (\$30, for 12, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78159-4099 USA)
Feb - a nice varied issue; from cases to why is the FBI spying on UFOlogists (allegedly) but with a very good piece on investigation and spotting a hoax

Just Cause Dec 1989 (\$15, for 4; PO Box 218 Coventry CN 06238 USA)
Fawcett and Greenwood continue their document search for cover-up related UFO evidence with admirable restraint.

Orbiter (Unstated price; 43 Harrison Street, Reading MA 01867 USA)
Always worth a look with its pot pourri of letters, press articles reprinted and cases. A very sensible middle of the road UFO journal which appeals to many outside of the USA; although not as well known as deserves to be.

UFORA Digest (Unstated price; PO Box 229 Prospect South Australia 5082)
A fine way to keep up to date with our neighbours 'down under', where it seems to be a country practice to report on UFOs both home and away. Don't be a prisoner in your own land get hold of this; or get your sons and daughters to get it for you. Seriously; these regular updates are literally packed with interesting cases. If you don't agree, go see a (young) doctor.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT

Spheres of Influence Nigel Mortimer 48pp illustrated A5 booklet £1.50

Same size and format as *NUN*, but with larger spaced type so may be easier to read (although I don't like ragged margins). Nigel has his own blend of investigation coupled with the advantage of being an eyewitness himself. He looks at various aspects of the paranormal.

It ranges liberally over legends, earth forces, dreams and strange events in and around the Yorkshire Moors with plenty of anecdotal stories dropped into the text. Its most unusual feature is the way in which dowsing has been used as an investigative tool (eg in Todmorden UFO activity) and with at least provocative consequences that are worthy of discussion.

The one thing you can say about this publication is that it tries a different (almost sideways) look at UFO and related phenomena and for that reason alone deserves a hearing; especially given the reasonable price.

Available from: - 33 Green Lane Addingham Ilkley West Yorks LS29 0JH

MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the public eye

It has been quite a good spell for sensible UFO coverage. There were the usual *ETH* pieces; eg in the new weekly magazine *Take a Break* which reviewed Tim Good's book 'The UFO Report 1990' and had a colour map of Britain dotted with spaceships. It seems in 1989 there were 1400 sightings in "the UFO capital of the world" (where? - why Southend, of course!).

The *Sport* have gone very quiet, just reporting (8 Apr) that alien Percy Throwers landed in Uruguay to teach a farmer how to grow pumpkin-sized tomatoes. Rather than cure AIDS the aliens apparently decided to use their "advanced alien knowledge" to save a four-acre farm from bankruptcy. Doubtless the moguls are planning the movie already.

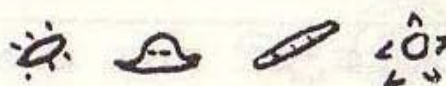
The *Daily Star* compensated (19 Feb) with a lengthy piece on Elsie Oakensen's case (see 'Abduction' for full account). It was a surprisingly straight retelling of her story as a plug for the IUN/BUFORA weekend college course on UFOs held in Osset in February.

The course did not fare so well in *The Guardian* (26 Feb) which made much of a photo of a woman drinking a cup of tea! It implied that the organisers (or 'cynics' as they were billed by the headline) lost the battle... "Helplessly, the sceptical lecturers watched as the debate began to centre not on the possible reality of aliens, but on whether they were the kind of creatures straight talking Yorkshirefolk could do business with." Despite a typically bodged bit of 'serious' journalism there were good points (eg - if UFOs are in the mind do blind folk see them?)

Meanwhile, John Spencer's rationalist UFOlogy was getting extensive fair coverage in the *Western Mail* next day (with a great title - 'The alien in your brain'). And the *Weekly News* (24 Feb) had a nice interview with Jenny about the dwindling number of probative photographic cases coming to UFOlogy and the possible implications. Even psychologist Nicholas Humphrey in *New Scientist* (24 Feb) completed that weekend's brace of sober UFOlogical items by suggesting that abduction cases "should perhaps be taken rather more seriously". And he fronted that awful Channel 4 documentary at Halloween a couple of years back. Things are looking up!

BRIEF CASES

Some current investigations

MERSEY MIXTURE (2)

Cases by Margaret Fry

Margaret caused a stir last time by - as Brigantia put it - 'Frying' David Clarke for being 'closed minded'. Hopefully David will respond next issue. She continues her report with several other 'probative' cases.

One summer night in 1971, Mrs M woke from her Liverpool home at 03.00 to see "a brightly glowing golden object" outside the window. This was semi-circular with a flattened base and fuzzy. It filled much of one quarter pane. (A) After a puzzled couple of minutes it changed shape, rotated and vanished. It is tempting to wonder if this might not have been the moon seen through cloud, but I guess I might get Fried if I suggested that!

Margaret is satisfied that this next case is some sort of craft. It occurred over Sefton Park in April (???) at 20.45 when Mr H saw a "large orange object in the sky". After 30 seconds of hovering it "opened up into a fan shape" (with orange/yellow streamers) then closed up and vanished. The lack of motion ruled out a meteorite and it was dark and starlit (so NOT the sun; although that would be an unusual orange object in Liverpool!) (B)



(A)



(B)



(C)

In August 1979 the following occurred. Mrs H and husband were returning to Liverpool near Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire. It was 21.30. A bright light appeared which was first dismissed as venus. They knew they were by Manchester Airport but the planes passing over were nowhere near as bright. It then resolved into a disc with windows and a flickering red light. Later, when telling the story on local radio the presenter said that the night BEFORE her sighting there was an incident in Suffolk, which was clearly the Rendlesham Forest landing. If so, then either the presenter or her dating is some way out because that case happened in December 1980. (C)

Case B has interesting similarities with another puzzling case in Urmston, Manchester around the same time.

BITS. . .

On 24 March 1990 UFO sightings in the Horncastle, Lincolnshire area were successfully traced to a paratrooper exercise on a low flying mission from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire using Hercules transporters and Chinook and Puma helicopters.

Two days later, on 26 March in the early hours, the Chorley-Blackburn area of the Pennines had police in a frenzy after reports of a plane crash over the moors. A helicopter search of the Belmont area revealed nothing and it was considered most likely the culprit was a bright fireball meteor.

Finally, an update on case 8906 (NUN 138) when a Tornado jet allegedly fired a missile at a UFO over Blackpool sea front on a July evening. Extensive investigation was carried out by Colleen Innes. The MoD, for instance, said that; "military aircraft are not permitted to overfly Blackpool at low level without express permission of Blackpool ATC" (which was not given) and "Firing of missiles of any kind over populated areas is prohibited". Every other lead came up blank and in the end the witness "stopped trying to convince me". The case is now officially labelled HOAX.

MOTHER SHIP UFO OVER WALSALL

CASE 6307 BUFORA August 1963 Aldridge, Walsall, West Midlands C7-5

Mrs S was in car with boyfriend at 18.30 on sunny evening. He had gone into a house and as she waited "something made me look up" and "there was a huge silver cigar completely still and not making any noise". The birds had stopped singing (she thinks) hence the trigger to look up. The massive UFO ("a foot ruler held at arms length - try it!) now "ejected" four saucer shaped objects at terrific speed, at which Mrs S (then aged 19) fled from the car and met her boyfriend on his way out. Looking up the UFO had gone. This is one of those cases for which misidentification seems useless.

CASE 6734 GHOSTBUSTERS 10 August 1967 Hindley, Wigan, Lancs J. Cotton E3-4

20 year old Police officer Steve Parsonage on beat patrol saw a "100 ft diameter white UFO" at 00.45. It flew off east at great speed. His notebook said; "saw a round object...high in altitude...not an aeroplane or comet." Another PC (Lionel Haw) saw it from his panda car on Liverpool Rd.

CASE 77-348 MUFORA 31 October 1977 Shrewsbury, Shropshire B4-5

Mrs P (now retired) went into a dark room at about 21.00 on a clear night to look over the River Severn. To the SW was a "vivid, almost fluorescent green strip of light moving very slowly west to east". She went into the front garden but took her eyes off it for a few moments and it vanished. She could find no cloud behind which it may have passed but traced the path it had been on and there it was again "now a very subdued circular golden ball with diameter equivalent to the green strip" (slightly less than full moon). She described it as "like looking at the moon through many layers of fine black net". Once she looked away she could hardly find it again but it took 10 minutes plus to drift away behind buildings. She called RAF Shawbury next day but got "a polite brush off". MUFORA can't give an answer for this case; but if anyone fancies a trip to Shrewsbury to talk to Mrs P she is interested in chatting with such a UFOlogist. Let us know.

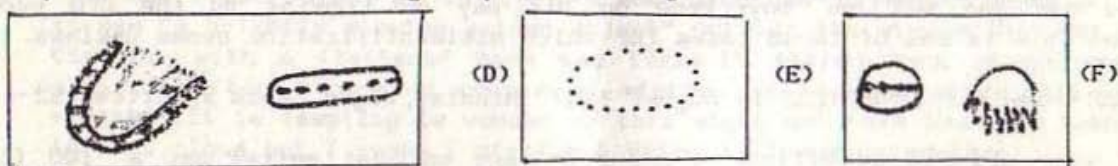
CASE 8432 UFORM November 1984 Hinckley, Leics Reg Burton B3-3

Mr M was a signalman at the local station and at 01.30 (on a Saturday) saw a bright light over a gas receiver station and pylon. It was a constant yellow like a car headlight but much bigger than stars. It remained still for 45 minutes, then an aircraft flew over heading into Birmingham and the light shot to the underside of the plane and paced it, before flying east and hovering for 8 more minutes. At closest it was seen to be made of smaller lights rotating clockwise. It vanished by shooting straight up. Enquiries indicated that Mr M had great enthusiasm and interest in UFOs and some aspects of his checkable testimony proved somewhat unreliable.

CASE 8841 UFORM 21 May 1988 Tamworth, Staffs Ashley Jones A4-5

This case happened 5 days after the Staffordshire VC-10 exercise (see last NUN editorial). It is impressively different as an entire family were witness (including a 21 year old university student and her father who is former mayor of the town). The sighting also lasted a total of 50 minutes, making it unlikely to have been aircraft refuelling. These planes just PASSED THROUGH.

The university student (Alison) saw the objects first at 20.40 (two lights in the SE). Her father, mother and brother watched them via binoculars and they resolved from stars to what were variously termed 'a horse-shoe shape' (Alison), 'a pencil' (her brother), 'an arc of radiance' (mother and father). All agree there were red, yellow and white lights, basically stationary and these flashed or rotated and from 21.00 they started moving about the sky, finally disappearing to the north west at 21.30. No explanation was forthcoming despite investigations into this case. (D)



CASE 8927 NUFORC 4 July 1989 Corby, Northants Ernie Still A4-6

Ernie was witness himself to this one; along with his wife and two neighbours (a fireman and wife). They saw it first and pointed it out, but it took Ernie some time to find it. The object was in the WNW and a silver colour. It was in view for over an hour from 20.50 onward and vanished into darkening sky. Through binoculars it seemed to have a protrusion or aerial and to the naked eye it was at the limit of perception, fading in and out of mist but remaining still. Immediate checks (later perused by mail) with police and RAF Wittering revealed nothing. However, one suggestion of a hot air balloon could not apparently be checked as flights were not logged. From the accounts this seems a possibility well worth bearing in mind (as does some other form of tethered balloon - eg for advertising purposes).

CASE 8928 UFORM 6 October 1989 Earl Shilton, Leics Reg Burton A4-5

Mr B (aged 64) awoke at 04.20 to go to the toilet and saw some lights over the Leicester Forest East area. Going to the livingroom looking north he saw them more clearly as a small circle of bright yellow lights (more than a dozen in all). After a few moments it 'gyrated' and the outer edges of the ring tilted up and down, then it changed angle of flight and switched off. He described it as silent and "weird and phantom like". He thought it was watching him. No source for the lights was found but the investigator reminds this was a 64 year old who had just woken from deep sleep. (E)

CASE 8914 IUN 20 October 1989 Halewood, Merseyside Philip Mantle C5-4

Mr E (a 20 year old student) was about to go to bed at 02.30 when he saw two red lights in the west. Other red lights were seen moving over the Ford factory and Speke (where Liverpool Airport is situated). They moved erratically and well separate from each other. He saw a light aircraft and this was totally different. There were two UFO types; a single red ball with white lights pulsing around its centre and an umbrella or fan shaped white light. Sometimes these moved in formations. Overall he watched for 15 minutes until all the objects had gone away (mostly north). He is convinced they were not aircraft due to the lack of sound, the fact there were no green lights and his familiarity with Speke (which is a small airport with little traffic at night). He is certain that more than eight aircraft would never be circling at one time. He reported to Speke the next day but they gave him a 'UFO number' to call which proved incorrect. (F)

POLICE INVOLVED IN OCTOBER FLAP

Early on Sunday 22 October 1989 I was awoken by a call from Essex police HQ for my views on at Chelmsford at 02.10. A light manouvering around the sky in the Hatville Peverill area had been reported by two motorists and police were taking it seriously because two panda car officers had seen it too. This was at Tiptree at 02.30. Not realising this was the start of a flap I put a BUFORA team onto the story and sat back to await results.

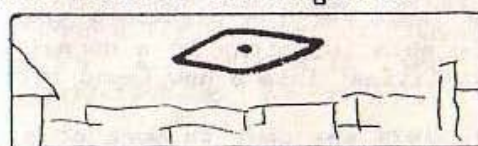
Next day a call from Jodrell Bank also involved the police. After initial contact with the witnesses Peter Hough followed through. This case had occurred at 19.15 whilst Mr B (an off duty police officer) and his wife and teenage son were driving past Delamere Forest in Cheshire near the village of Alvenley. In fact what they saw was almost exactly what has been terrorising residents in Belgium (according to recent major press stories). It was our old friend - the big triangle or 'silent vulcan'.

Covered in white, red and blue lights (at various points) it resembles an aircraft (hence suggestions it is a stealth plane). But it flies very low and is usually near or totally silent - as here. The Alvenley triangle hovered overhead for two minutes then shot away. Investigation was hampered by Cheshire police refusing to allow cooperation (more hints of military activity?) and the witnesses consequent desire for anonymity, but there was little doubt this was a genuinely impressive sighting. (G)

Hours later, at 05.10 into 24 October Margaret Fry reports another sighting not too far away (the Sandycroft Industrial Estate, Deeside, on the Cheshire-Clwyd border). Mr G (a security guard on the site) saw a dark object (which was silhouetted against the sky) which came at him and then altered course as he shone his powerful torch up at it. His colleague ran towards him and shone his torch up as the object moved about the sky clearly visible as a 'stingray' or 'diamond' shape. At 05.50 they saw some vapour directly above them and realised this must have come from the object that had silently passed right over their heads at low height. (H)



(G)



(H)

It seems clear that something extraordinary was flying over west Cheshire that night and it is a very familiar something of which we have had many sightings in recent years. As for the Essex reports, it seems they were unrelated. It turned out that the 'UFO' was a Warrior PA 28 light plane that was STOLEN from Andrewsfield airfield in Stebbing around 02.00. The culprit was not found but must have been a skilled pilot as six hours of fuel were used, cavorting about the skies playing UFO, and the plane was found abandoned at 08.00, fuelless, having landed safely on a country road.

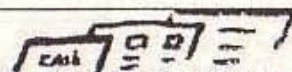
CASE 8932 NLUFOIG 27 November 1989 Morecambe, Lancs G. Barraclough B4-4

At 20.00 two angled tubes of white lights seen pointing skyward and moving over the bay. Possibility that these might have been searchlight beams?

CASE 9001 BUFORA 10 March 1990 Anlaby, Humberside C3-4

At 14.10 on windy but sunny day youngster reported classic fairground balloon (ie oval with one half dark and other reflective) floating past.

CASE HISTORIES



A PSYCHIC NIGHTMARE

This is the sort of case which is coming to our notice more and more in the wake of books like INTRUDERS and ABDUCTION. Yet we lack the facilities and the expertise to help the often desperate witness. I will merely call this lady Mrs G and say she lives in South Wales to protect her identity. She has written me a series of letters asking for our assistance and I could not interest a Welsh researcher. I suggested ASSAP (as the case has strong psychic tones) but Mrs G may well still appreciate the help of anyone who thinks they can be useful. Let me know if you do and I will see whether Mrs G is still looking for a solution.

Events began in the mid fifties when Mrs G was a young child. She had the classic history of psychic experiences. "From an early age I had vivid 'waking dreams' of strange people either passing through my bedroom or just standing and watching me". She saw a human sized 'black cat' sat on a wall. She heard voices, felt gentle pressures on her body and frequently gazed up at the sky, even went outside in the dead of night looking upwards "with a terrible longing inside of me". Needless to say her family dismissed all this as an over-active imagination, but it really disturbed her.

At age 12 (c 1965) she saw and 'felt' a very tall figure outside and had to flee from it. All of this activity culminated in a period of illness (c 1970-1972) where she found her personality changing and had to have extensive drug therapy in hospital. Temporal lobe epilepsy was diagnosed and the electric shock therapy only left her with terrible headaches. She used to 'wake up' in the hospital corridor with no idea of how she got there and a time lapse. But the nightmare ended suddenly when she just 'got better' and was able to return to a normal life; although she tried to incorporate her 'abilities' into a new found involvement with Spiritualism.

In 1975 she went to work at a holiday camp in Weston super Mare and would regularly 'sleep walk' without obvious cause. This continued in 1977 at a camp at Bracklesham Bay in West Sussex. Here she would wake up sweating and crying; "I knew I'd been somewhere but I didn't know where." Other times she woke feeling her way round her familiar chalet; "I felt as if I were in a strange place. I had to get out." She had other strange experiences (here and back home in Wales) - eg "a kind of rushing noise surrounded me and I saw flashing lights very briefly". These later developed into full-blown out of body experiences and lucid dreams of floating about the house.

In 1980, back at Bracklesham Bay, she was with another maid strolling at night on the beach when "a huge liner came into view, blocking off the bay lit up like an xmas tree." But it was silent and ON the beach, so not a real boat. Her friend was vague about all this but had seen the ship and was baffled. Mrs G had "felt in a dreamlike state". Another more clearly UFO-related sighting occurred in Wales in 1983 when she saw a "large white 'moon'" over a nearby mountain. But the real moon was elsewhere in the sky. Mrs G has had many other examples of ESP or precognitive dreams and dreams of UFOs. These continued into 1989 at last report - with similar full intensity. Having now discovered abduction stories she is wondering if this might provide the framework to help her sort out and stop these events.

Of course, UFOlogy has a real dilemma here. Not only are we unqualified to give an opinion, but as John Spencer warned in his book 'Perspectives', we may risk creating abduction cases by imposing this outline onto a case study. Here, Mrs G's experiences could easily be interpreted in many differing contexts. The UFO abduction scenario (in my personal view) seems an enforced one in this case. But that itself is a vital recognition; because we may face basic questions about how an abduction can be manufactured through witness and UFOlogist out of what are 'really' psychic experiences, medical conditions (eg epilepsy) and new wave extra-terrestrial belief.

ON THE ROCKS

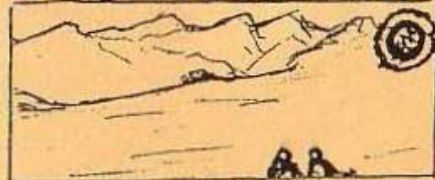
A Cumbrian Encounter

May 1980

Case 80-105 MUFORA

This case came to light when JR did a BBC-1 "Open Air" programme on UFOs in April and Mrs H called in. She had the experience with her ex husband (a civil engineer) at either easter or Spring holiday weekend approximately 14.00 hrs on a bright, sunny day with patchy high cloud.

They were on iron ore tips byr Wetherlamb in the lake district, between Langdale and Coniston (perhaps best known as scene of the Stephen Derbyshire photo of an Adamski-like craft). Mrs H had grown up in the area; although then (as now) lived in the south. They were ferreting through the loose rocks when she had to 'look up' because of an odd feeling. This she likened to the sort of heavy pressure one can get prior to



the onset of a thunderstorm; although no storm was around this time. Looking up the slope a strange object appeared. It was like "a steel kettle in colour and shaped like a ball bearing, with striations on the surface in no set pattern as if someone had gone over it with steel wool." A heat haze or shimmer surrounded its surface, even though it was not a particularly hot day. Mrs H insists; "It was dark bluish/grey... very definitely solid and heavy looking." It was 2-3 ft wide.

The object proceeded to move down the slope towards them, noticeably following the contours of the land as it rose and fell. It was no more than 3 feet off the ground and came to an abrupt stop some 50 feet away. Here it hovered for 2 minutes, then shot skywards and vanished rapidly.

During its presence there had been a sound. This was likened to a "very low almost sub-audible humming". Mrs H says she 'felt' this more than she heard it, but it was real and disappeared along with the object. She is convinced that this noise precipitated the feeling of apprehension first noted and ; "I couldn't tell whether it was physical or psychological, but the noise was creating such a feeling of 'doom' that I was extremely glad when it was gone."

She asked Mr H if he saw it. He confirmed this. She then asked whether they should report it to the police. He said 'no', bundled her into the car and drove them the 300 miles south. They never spoke of it again.

This would seem to be a most interesting form of UAP, possibly a kind of 'super ball lightning'. One fascinating clue is that Mrs H says during childhood she remembers how frequently this hill was struck by lightning during storms; possibly because of the attraction of the buried iron ore.

F I N A L
WORDS

Stephen Graham of Carlisle sent a letter from Clive Neville at the MoD, saying; "as far as we are aware, no reported sightings have been accompanied by a definitive photograph or similar and we have no record of any radar traces caused by alleged UFO activity" (but adds that coverage is "targetted to scan the approaches to the UK rather than our homeland"). Files can only be released "30 years after the last action has been taken" but they have "been given dispensation to answer specific queries about particular incidents which have occurred recently". Neville adds figures for sightings received at the MoD during the decade - viz: 1980 (350), 1981 (600), 1982 (250), 1983 (390), 1984 (215), 1985 (175), 1986 (120), 1987 (150), 1988 (400)...ie 2650. Referring to a figure given by John Stanley in the House to BUFORA president Patrick Wall (24 Oct 1983) Stephen says there were 190 sightings in the last ten weeks of 1983, post the Sky Crash story!

Those of you not getting UFO Brigantia missed (March) some deeply critical views on things UFOlogical from MJ-12 to a load of BOLS...Top up your NUN subscription for a magazine a month for just £5 (payable 'NUFON').

CALENDAR

Next BUFORA lecture (2 June, London Business School, 18.30 hr) features Ken Phillips on his anamnesis work (see p.3).

Then on 23 June (Oxford Polytechnic, 10.30 - 17.00 hr) is the worlds first scientific symposium on crop circles featuring professors from Britain, Japan and the USA and several British crop circle researchers (eg Fuller, Meaden, Randles & Taylor). Cost is £20 (£10 students, OAPs and unemployed) to include conference proceedings. Places limited so contact:- Dr Derek Elsom Geography Unit, Oxford Polytechnic, Oxford OX3 0BP

New of the great Phantoms of the Sky conference; Sheffield Central Library 14-15 July (see last issue). £8 both days (call 0924-444049, 24 hrs, for details). John Keel is not now coming (Budd Hopkins is) and Dr Vladimir Rubtsov of the USA will be there - the first Soviet UFOlogist ever to lecture in Britain. STAY UP TO DATE ON ALL EVENTS VIA UFO CALL 0898-12 18 86

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